# SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION



editorial

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# LET'S STRIKE AND STRIKE HARDER

*THE Vietnamese nation is living glorious and most inspiring days. The South, the great front of the whole country, is in the throes of offensives and uprisings. Our armed forces and people are making tremendous gains in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, in Eastern and Western Nam Bo, on the High Plateaux and in Central Trung Bo. In many areas, all to a man, the population is rising up to seize power. We are advancing like a tidal wave. The enemy is reeling under our punches and panic stricken.*

*The North shows itself equal to its name as the big rear base. It is assisting the South with might and main in winning victory over the American aggressors. It has devastatingly punished Nixon's new air and naval escalation.*

*All Viet Nam is in action. All Viet Nam is in an offensive posture. News of battles won is resounding throughout North and South. The hour has struck, a new conjuncture has taken shape. Our armed forces and people are growing stronger as they fight and score ever-bigger successes in the process. As for the enemy the more they have to cope with our punches the heavier their reverses, and the weaker they become.*

*NIXON'S Vietnamization has wrought untold sufferings on our people. Youths are made soldiers of an army used as an instrument of aggression in the place of American troops. The Nguyen Van Thieu client administration is stubbornly maintained as a tool of US domination. The pacification program has generated mourning in every family and suffering in every social segment. The crimes perpetrated by Nixon and company are piling up higher than mountains. Anger has fired millions in our land into offensives and uprisings, devastating for the Yankee invaders and their henchmen.*

*Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. These words of our beloved President Ho Chi Minh are the source of our nation's invincible strength. Actuated by them, our countrymen, our armed forces, under the patriotic banner of the South Viet Nam NFL and PRG, have foiled various US strategies and are frustrating Nixon's Vietnamization. Their dramatic advances throughout South Viet Nam war theatres, following up those of the three Indochinese fronts in the last few years, have driven the US and its Saigon quislings into a critical situation in South Viet Nam.*

*From an obviously losing position, Nixon has engaged in fresh war escalations. Madly wriggling about, he is accumulating new crimes. Deploying warships and aircraft-carriers, strategic bombers B-52 and fighter-planes of all types, he is pushing up the war in the South and another extremely serious aero-naval war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Populous areas of the North are hit, including Haiphong port and the capital Hanoi.*

*At the end of their tethers, Nixon and his confederates are baring more luridly than ever their aggressive, war-seeking, cruel and crafty nature. Their new and reckless escalation has given the lie to Nixon's peace professsions. Is it intended to "reduce US casualties" and "bring home POW's at an early date"? Is it to pave the way for "serious negotiations" and to "build a just society in which all people will live together"? Is Nixon working for the future of our children" through terroristic sweeps and the bombing of populated areas. No, he has simply shown himself as an efficient and faithful agent of US monopolies, as the most bellicose, cruel, crafty and stupid of all American presidents. By nurturing the illusion of creating a winning posture from a losing one, of forcing the Vietnamese people to accept US neo-colonialist domination through a "Vietnamized" war, Nixon is treading in Lyndon Johnson's footsteps and committing crimes that Johnson dared not perpetrate.*

*NIXON is under fire from all sides. Throughout Viet Nam he is strongly denounced. Around the world progressive people are censuring him. In the United States, public feeling is running high against him, and political circles are greatly critical of him. The American administration is more isolated than ever. The present military adventures of the US aggressors now evidently in a weak position are but the struggles of a cornered beast, the mad reaction of someone driven to the wall. No magic device can stave off the fiasco of Nixon's war. While over half a million GI's armed to the teeth could not get the better of their opponent and have been forced to withdraw, Nixon's tentative re-Americanization of the war will certainly be of little avail. He is placing high hopes on the US Air Force whose "supremacy" was lamentably debunked in North Viet Nam years ago. Which type of aircraft has not been downed? More and more flying fortresses have experienced the same fate under the North's strong fire power and in face of the extraordinary fighting spirit of missile units. Nixon will not achieve with the air war what he and his predecessors have failed to get in the land war. The US Air Force can accumulate atrocities in the two parts of our country but it will not prevent his defeat.*

*One can never cure one disease with a remedy for another disease. Nixon will not salvage the Vietnamization of the war in the South with "reprisals" against the North. The aero-naval war against the North is an integral part of the larger US aggressive war against Viet Nam and Indochina. No justification whatsoever can possibly vindicate it.*

*THERE is not, and there can never be, invasion of South Viet Nam by North Viet Nam. Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese. Whenever a foreign invasion occurs, all Vietnamese citizens make it a duty to resist it. To fight against the American invaders, the cruellest foreign aggressors in Viet Nam's history, is the inalienable right of the Vietnamese people. They will carry on their resistance so long as their enemy continues to occupy any part of their fatherland or violate any portion of their air or sea space. They let it be known that the Nixon administration should not rely on fire and sword to submit them. No cruel act of war, no arrogant threat can shake the will of a people to fight until victory. The appeal of the South Viet Nam NFL and PRG and that of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government resound as clarion calls for national salvation: "Let all our fellow countrymen continue our national tradition of heroism, rush ahead in the flush of our victories, emulate one another in achieving feats of arms, foil Vietnamization and all US-Thieu adventures, and score bigger successes while proceeding toward total victory." That is also the will and the determination of the South Vietnamese people, of the whole Vietnamese nation.*

*Never has our resistance against American aggression, for national salvation been in such a propitious position. For our fatherland's independence and freedom the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, together with their heroic brothers in the North, in coordination with the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos, and with the encouragement of their friends the world over, are resolved to go on striking at the enemy, striking harder and harder until complete victory.*

SOUTH VIET NAM

Peak 544 pounded by Quang Tri PLAF

# US - SAICON COERCIVE SYSTEM SHATTERED BY POPULAR UPRISINGS

COORDINATING with the PLAF attacks and the actions of townsfolks, those penned up by the US-Thieu in "strategic hamlets" and "relocation centres" have been rising up to break their chains, wipe out thugs, reconquer their rights as masters, encircle enemy posts and force their defenders to surrender, thus causing the disintegration by big chunks of the grass-roots quisling administration and the collapse of the rural mainstay of the US-Thieu regime.

In the last 40 days hundreds of thousands of people in Central Trung Bo have been devastatingly harming the enemy's "pacification" program. Many "strategic hamlets" and "relocation centres" have been pulled down, hundreds of Saigon organizations of spies and thugs disbanded, many "rural militia" teams and "people's self-defence" units forced to give themselves up. In immense areas newly liberated, revolutionary power has been set up, a new life has emerged, with stress laid on the consolidation and development of local armed forces in anticipation of enemy counter-attacks.

In mid-March and early April 1972, concerted actions could be observed between towns and villages. In the districts of Hoai Nhon, Hoai An, Phu My, Binh Dinh province, 50,000 people including Buddhist believers, pupils, students, peasants, MPs, officers and men of the Saigon army, civil servants, took part in demonstrations to expose and condemn the savage murder of Huynh Thi Hien by the Thieu clique. In the district of Hoai Nhon alone, 90 per cent of Saigon soldiers sided with the people. Thousands of students, pupils and other people in Qui Nhon, Hue, Da Nang, Quang Ngai and Saigon, defying enemy regulations, came to Binh Dinh to participate in the fight of the local population.

Stimulated by such a situation, more than 20,000 people in the districts of Phu Cat, Phu My and Hoai Nhon rose up to shatter "relocation centres," oppose sweeps, house-burning and looting and demand the return home of forcibly drafted soldiers. They also destroyed parts of Highway No 1 to prevent enemy movements.

On the eve of the above-said action in Binh Dinh, more than 16,000 inhabitants of Tuy Hoa township (Phu Yen province) staged a rally against the murder of two pupils by the Thieu gang. They duly punished the Tuy Hoa policemen called in against them, then stormed the police post, burnt all files and documents and captured or destroyed more than 100 guns. A number of cruel thugs among policemen were chastised and a number of civilians arbitrarily detained by the puppets were set free. Meanwhile 5,000 people in Dong Xuan district destroyed the "relocation centre" at Tan Phu, then checked a "pacification" operation by the enemy.

At about the same time, in an ebullient action, the people in the districts of Binh Son and Sa Huynh, in the sea-coast and hill areas as well (Quang Ngai province) rose up and joined hands with guerillas in neatly wiping out a "pacification" column, two police subsectors, and dismantling many "relocation centres" to wrest back control in many hamlets and villages.

The people in Central Trung Bo moreover succeeded in talking nearly 2,000 soldiers into leaving the enemy ranks and returning to the people's fold.

Early April, tens of thousands of people in the districts of Cai Lay, Cai Be, on both sides of Highway No 4 (My Tho province), while rising up and breaking the enemy yoke, also disbanded "people's self-defence" units and persuaded a great number of members of the Saigon regular army, regional forces and "rural militia" to liquidate cruel thugs in their ranks.

In Ben Tre province, after the liberation forces erased Truc Giang post, nearly 50,000 people in the districts of Giong Trom, Thanh Phu, Binh Dai, Chau Thang, and in city wards of An Hoa, My Long, Phu Nhuan stood up to attack the most recalcitrant enemy elements and disperse whole quisling organizations at grass-roots level. Meanwhile, armed with weapons captured from the enemy, they organized additional guerilla teams to fight adverse forces, defend the liberated zone and revolutionary power.

As assaults were made by the PLAF, nearly 300,000 people around Loc Ninh township, in 16 "strategic hamlets" in the Loc Ninh area and 20 "strategic hamlets" in the vicinity of An Loc township (Binh Long province) swept away nearly all the system of "people's self-defence" and Saigon organizations of spies and thugs, regained control, set up revolutionary power to administer the 1,000-square-mile newly-liberated area.

Joining in the general drive in South Viet Nam, hundreds of thousands of Western Nam Bo people battered the US-Thieu coercive apparatus. In many districts of Rach Gia, Ca Mau, Can Tho, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh provinces, they obliterated quisling power at grass-roots level. After dispersing "people's self-defense" formations and blotting out "relocation centres" and "strategic hamlets", they encircled enemy posts and compelled enemy regional forces to surrender.

Greatly encouraged by the successes of the delta people, the inmates of 17 "strategic hamlets" and "relocation centres" in Gia Lai province and in three districts of Darlac province rose up, reconquered control and immediately set to organize production and further strengthen revolutionary forces. Many enemy organizations of spies and thugs confessed their crimes while "people's self-defence" units returned to the people's ranks with all their weapons, and volunteered for resistance assignments.

Right in the first days of the PLAF onsets against enemy positions, more than 100,000 South Vietnamese detained in the enemy system of "strategic hamlets" and "relocation centres" at Gio Linh, Cam Lo, Mai Loc, etc. (Quang Tri province) rose up to set up revolutionary power and patriotic bodies and dashed forward against the enemy.

No doubt the tidal wave of uprisings of the South Vietnamese people will reach new height and further spread at the same tempo as the PLAF onslaughts: it will strike direct blows at the "rural pacification" program of the US-Saigon rule and at "Vietnamization."

# THE CRIMINALS SHALL BE PUNISHED

IN a bid to stave off the total bankruptcy of its "Vietnamization" and "pacification," in recent years, " the Nixon administration has, through the agency of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, been stepping up criminal activities against the South Vietnamese people. Heinous crimes have been perpetrated against the South Vietnamese people in general, and the people of Quang Tri – Thua Thien in particular.

Quang Tri and Thua Thien are South Viet Nam's two northernmost provinces lying in a panhandle area just south of the Ben Hai river and covering nearly 1,300 sq. miles with some 850,000 inhabitants. Since US troops landed in South Viet Nam, a huge machine of coercion has been set up here to tighten control over the local population and secure a firm foothold in this uppermost sector.

As early as 1965, the US-Saigon troops began their campaign of terror against the people of these 2 provinces. Since mid-May, 1967, when US marines were moved en masse to start a build-up along the Southern bank of the Ben Hai river, hundreds of sweeps have been mounted, hundreds of thousands of people have been murdered or impounded in concentration camps like those at Tan Tuong, Cua Viet, Quan Ngang and Cua. The "three-all" tactics—burn all, kill all and destroy all—has been extensively applied. A stretch of land tens of miles long from Gio Linh to Con Tien has been bulldozed and cleared for the erection of the "McNamara electronic fence." Early in 1968, the US-Saigon command committed to this area dozens of battalions of mobile troops, tens of thousands of regional troops and hundreds of "pacification" teams for a series of raids under their "accelerated pacification" program. Day and night, lines of US bulldozers flattened villages and hamlets from Ben Hai to Phu Loc. Four hundred of the total 800 villages of Quang Tri – Thua Thien, once green with vegetation, were completely razed to the ground. Tens of thousands of hectares of lush ricefields were turned into a desert. Innumerable graves were levelled. In Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts alone, of the total 184 villages, 150 were erased. All houses and property of several thousand families, hundreds of churches, pagodas and schools, and vast crop areas were devastated, and thousands of head of cattle killed or taken away.

Terroristic sweeps were accompanied by mass killings. At Lang Vay (Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province) a US bombing raid on March 2, 1967 claimed 300 civilian lives, mostly old people, women and children. Early in April 1968, 100 civilians were killed by US bombs as they were bringing in their crop at Vinh Quang Thuong (Gio Linh district). On February 10, 1968, 300 persons detained in the Quan Ngang concentration camp were slaughtered. Hundreds of similar massacres occurred in quick succession. The people of Quang Tri and Thua Thien were constantly in danger of their life.

Day in and day out, US aircraft and artillery from the 7th Fleet and ground bases rained on villages and hamlets demolition, steel pellet, blast, napalm and phosphorous bombs, and incendiary and gas shells.

According to preliminary statistics, from the beginning of 1968 to mid-1969, 90,000 bombs and shells were dumped on Trung Hai village alone (Gio Linh district) or more than 280 bombs and shells per capita.

From 1967 to 1970, the 4 villages of Gio Linh, Trung Son, Trung Hai and Trung Giang (Gio Linh district) received tens of thousands of tons of bombs unleashed by B.52s alone. Meanwhile US toxic chemicals completely ruined a vast area covering more than 1,200 sq. miles from Gio Linh to Phu Loc. An area of over 200 sq. miles was devastated in Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts alone.

A new criminal plan – unprecedented in Viet Nam history—for massive population relocations, has been carried out to transfer millions of people from these two provinces to the delta plains of Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo. This project, financed by Washington, further proves that the Yankees are the cruellest aggressors of our time. The *Far Eastern Economic Review* on April 17, 1971 likened it to the extermination of Red Indians in the US.

In their death throes, the US-Thieu clique are feverishly perpetrating odious crimes against the people of Quang Tri – Thua Thien and the rest of South Viet Nam. However, the Quang Tri – Thua Thien people who have been holding their ground at this end of South Viet Nam's great anti-US frontline, will never bow to brutal force. Facts show that the McNamara electronic fence, the "pacification" program, bombs and shells, toxic chemicals and massive deportation have failed to blunt PLAF attacks from Khe Sanh to the coastal fringe, and to prevent the local people from rising up to break the enemy's grip and seize power. Never before have the US-Saigon troops in this sector found themselves in such a precarious position. Their monstrous crimes against the Quang Tri – Thua Thien people and the South Vietnamese people as a whole will surely be duly punished.

# THE DYKE WILL YIELD UNDER STRONG WATER PRESSURE

WHILE the Liberation armed forces were staging violent attacks on the enemy, and the inhabitants of the countryside and hilly regions are hitting hard at their coercive apparatus to regain control of these areas, urban political unrest was impetuously mounting.

In Saigon, the four biggest weaving mills employing 12,000 workers and nundreds of engineers protested against the unrestricted import of textiles by the Saigon administration, thereby ruining them and depriving textile workers of their jobs Since the end of March, 56 trade union organizations in Gia Dinh province have been opposing Thieu's economic measures which have landed them in great difficulties. Since early April, the workers of the Glassware factory in Saigon, of the transport companies in Saigon, Thu Duc, Binh Dinh, Banmethuot, of the oil and chemical companies, the Saigon T.U. Federation, the disabled servicemen working in American offices in Saigon, have staged strikes and demonstrations against lay-off, exploitation and repression, and incomplete payment of wages by the employers and for wage-lifts and better living conditions.

Since April 5, students of 13 universities in Saigon have boycotted classes as a protest against Thieu's forcing people from 15 to 50 into the "people's self-defence" forces, and for the release of students, pupils and intellectuals illegally detained since September 1971. At the end of March and beginning of April 1972, the university and college students held spirited demonstrations against the fascist dictatorial regime in Saigon. The Students' General Associations in Saigon, Can Tho, Van Hanh, Hue and the Saigon Pupils'

General Association have published communiqués and letters scoring the Thieu clique's harsh repression of the school youth who took part in the March 29, 1972 demonstration in front of the Saigon "Lower House," unwarranted detention of students and intellectuals and their trial by a military court. This powerful movement of the school youth in all South Viet Nam urban centres has enlisted the staunch support of university professors and various sections of the urban population.

Parallel to the above actions and those of many organizations, political and religious personalities against "Vietnamization," the "Catholics for Peace" movement, the "Twelve Cao Dai Sects and their Believers," 17 "Peace and Progress" organizations in Saigon have raised their voices against US aggression and for an end to US intervention in Indochina and resignation of Nguyen Van Thieu.

Public opinion in South Viet Nam urban centres has been strongly critical of Thieu's March 24 orders to set up the "National Manpower Mobilization Committee" for impress and war escalation. It also castigated Nixon's sabotage of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and pointed out that Vietnamization had fizzled out.

To conceal his reverses on the battlefield, Thieu has been cracking down on the press. In the first ten days of April 1972, he seized 59 paper issues on the ground that they carried news on PLAF advances. This only exacerbated the indignation of the South Viet Nam press. On April 5, a Saigon paper flayed it as "an outright violation of the freedom of the press and an indication that Thieu is utterly puzzled and impotent." On April 6, another paper commented: "How can the truth circulated from lip to lip be hushed up? In the face of the burning of books and burying alive of students like those of a tyrannical prince in the Middle Ages, there still are people who inscribe historical facts on stone slabs for future generations to heap curses on them."

To get out of his scrape, Thieu has taken such unpopular moves as the "Autumn economic measures," the "Spring economic measures," tax and price increase, devaluation of the piastre, thus making it harder for the townsfolk. In addition, unemployment and the sacking of workers by American firm without severance pay, have placed the workers in a most critical situation. The impress of people, from children to old-agers, into the "people's self-defence" units is a clear proof of US-Thieu intention to send town people to the front as cannon-fodder for the Americans. To quell all resistance and avenge themselves on the opposition, apart from torture and a harsh detention regime, the Thieu clique have resorted to white terror. From March 26 to 31, 1972, they launched 5,000 police operations in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, during which 114 people were killed, 3,000 arrested, 160 taken to unknown destinations. To conceal their weakness, isolation, rottenness and setbacks, they have tried to gag the press, jail and fine editors-in-chief and journalists and worse still, force the press into carrying only information released by their psywar service.

All these frantic moves have been taken to keep going "Vietnamization" now heading for its doom, and to strengthen their last foothold. The root cause of the stifling atmosphere in South Viet Nam urban centres and the misery of the people there is US neo-colonialism and its pliant tool, the Thieu quisling administration. The antagonism between the South Viet Nam townsfolk and the US-Thieu clique has become very sharp and the hatred of the former for the latter very deep. There is no family without accounts to settle with the rulers.

When the water pressure is too strong, the dyke will yield. This explains why over the last few years, the anti-US-Thieu drive has gained momentum in South Viet Nam, especially since September 1971, that is during and after the one-man presidential race. That ebullience has become a front of broad coalition of workers, students, intellectuals, personalities, activists of various religious and political parties, war invalids (of the Saigon army) and a growing numbers of soldiers, policemen and functionaries of the Saigon administration.

It has always been coordinated with other movements of the entire people in South Viet Nam against the enemy, compelling them to take defensive measures and weakening them in their last refuge. It assumes more significance in the current waves of attacks and uprisings popping everywhere in the South. Conscious of their historical mission, the townspeople will surmount all difficulties and keep their movement alive to thwart the US-quislings' reactionary policy, to pool their efforts with their fellow-countrymen all over the country in order to foil "Vietnamization," oust the Yankees and topple the quislings and wrest back national independence and freedom.

*Saigon opposition MPs including Mme Kieu Mong Thu demonstrating in front of the Lower House*

# TIDING WAVE OF OFFENSIVES AND UPRISINGS AWAKENS SAIGON TROOPS

UNDER the impact of the South Vietnamese army and people's powerful offensives and wide-spread uprisings, several units of "civil guard" militia, "self-defence" and even Saigon regular army have been opposing war, bringing their arms to the Revolution and joining in the people's anti-US-Thieu resistance.

Besides anti-war actions of Regiment 50 in Quang Tri and Armoured Regiment in East Nam Bo early April, many other collective protests have erupted. Only 2 days after the PLAF assaults on adverse bases in North Quang Tri, all the "people's self-defence" forces in 10 hamlets around Lai Xa and Quang Ngang turned their weapons on the wicked thugs, surrendered to the people and volunteered for service in the resistance. Meanwhile, many militia and "civil guard" units in Gio Linh, Cam Lo also rebelled and together with the people wiped out hired killers, destroy the enemy grip and wrested back control over the land.

Greatly scared by the PLAF stormy attacks and the people's ebullient uprisings, two Saigon infantry battalions and two armoured columns on Highway 22 disobeyed their commanders' raiding orders. River flotilla 52 on the Saigon River also opposed the route.

While the patriotic forces were assailing the Saigon regular troops in Loc Ninh, the whole "civil guard" company defending Chi Hoa "strategic hamlet" (Binh Long province) crossed over to the people's side with all their arms after killing the wicked thugs. From March 31 to April 2, 300 "people's self-defence" men in Cai Lay district (My Tho) shot dead a number of die-hards, surrendered to the local revolutionary administration. In the period under review, hundreds of "civil guards" in the same district also rose up to flatten their posts and requested the revolutionary administration to help them return to their native villages. Many other soldiers joined the people in encircling posts, destroying "strategic hamlets" and recovering control.

After being briefed on the 10-point policy of the RSVN PRG, the armymen stationed in Phu Huu Post (My Tho) tied up their cruel commanders, handed them over to the revolutionary administration and their own arms to the people. A militia unit guarding Cha La post (Tay Ninh) surrendered to the PLAF with all its rifles after punishing the post commander who ows many bloody debts to the people, and destroying the village quisling administrative office.

While the liberation fighters were assaulting the CPs of Regiments 33 and 16 and Thac Lac special sector (Can Tho), many Saigon regular troops, instead of fighting back, divided into small groups, surrendered to the people and asked to be admitted to the liberation army ranks.

Before the PLAF violent attacks on the enemy bases in Quang Tri, 20 mutinies and uprisings took place in Binh Dinh with 300 wicked thugs killed on the spot and the mutineers' arms handed over to the people.

All the aforesaid anti-war acts by the Saigon army testified to the unavoidable worsening posture of the US and its quislings.

The stepped-up PLAF offensives and surging wave of the people in the countryside and mountain areas which have repeatedly knocked down by big chunks the adverse coercive machinery, in close co-ordinated actions with the urban population's drives and the effects of the PRG 10-point policy will surely incite more officers and men of the Saigon army to change sides.

# PLAF BIG VICTORIES ON ALL BATTLEFRONTS

## * In 15 days, 30,000 enemy put out of combat

*According to GPA, entering 1972 the US-puppets have been driven further into a defensive and passive position on all the battlefields in South Viet Nam in face of the offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam people and liberation armed forces. However, all enemy defensive measures have proved ineffective.*

*From late March to early April, the South Viet Nam people and armed forces launched violent attacks and simultaneously rose up, recording victories on the whole of South Viet Nam.*

**After 15 days of continuous fighting from March 30 to April 15, the heroic PLAF and people of South Viet Nam recorded great victories on all fronts from Quang Tri-Thua Thien to Ca Mau. They:**

**— killed, wounded and captured nearly 30,000 enemy troops including many puppet officers and US advisers;**

**— wiped out 5 brigades, "tactical groups" and regiments, and 13 infantry battalions, and 3 armoured squadrons and 10 artillery battalions;**

**— heavily decimated 8 brigades and regiments, 3 armoured squadrons and many infantry battalions;**

**— shot down and damaged on the ground over 150 war planes of all types, destroyed and captured more than 1,000 military vehicles including 300 tanks and armoured cars; wrecked and seized over 200 artillery pieces from 105 mm to 175 mm calibres and burnt down hundreds of dumps of bombs and shells; and**

**— smashed dozens of bases, headquarters, artillery sites, airfields and ports.**

**The people in many provinces and districts from Quang Tri to Ca Mau rose up, smashed the enemy's grip, destroyed "strategic hamlets" and other concentration camps, seized control and liberated many areas.**

**Many big units of the enemy forces including the big bulk of the 56th Regiment, puppet 3rd Division and the 9th "Tactical Group", puppet 5th Infantry Division mutinied and rallied to the liberation forces.**

**Thousands of officers and soldiers of different units of the puppet army surrendered to the liberation forces.**

**Many "civil guard" and "militia" units revolted and "popular defence" in many localities were disbanded.**

* *The NFL victorious flag fluttering on the top of enemy command shelter in Doc Mieu*

* *Enemy tank captured*

**QUANG TRI — THUA THIEN:** The liberation forces since March 30 have assaulted all the enemy military bases and positions north and south of Highway 9 (Quang Tri) and west of Highway 12 (Thua Thien—Hue), wiped out and captured more than 10,000 enemy troops.

— In Quang Tri, the PLAF artillery pounded almost all the HQs of enemy regiments, brigades and divisions, brought to a standstill enemy gun batteries and airfields, and destroyed all strongholds and clusters of strongholds south and north of Highway 9.

With the effective fire cover from artillery and air-defence units, the PLAF infantry and armour, in close coordination, launched fierce attacks on the enemy and quickly destroyed almost all the eneny's principal defence lines and wiped out their main forces in the area.

After 5 days of violent fighting (from March 30 to April 4), the liberation forces wrote off the toll the 147th Marine Brigade, put out of action the 56th Regiment and heavily decimated the 57th Regiment of the puppet 3rd Division. The HQ of the division was seriously damaged and 7 artillery battalions were knocked out. The 17th and 20th Armoured Units were heavily trounced by the PLAF. Almost all commanding officers, general staffs and men of the 56th Regiment collectively revolted right on the battlefield.

In the flush of victories, the liberation forces assaulted and captured the Cua Viet port, Ong Do Cave and the "Phuong Hoang" (Phoenix) base, creating favourable besieging and offensive position against enemy troops stationed in Dong Ha and Ai Tu military bases, and shelling position on clusters of strongnolds in defence of Quang Tri provincial capital and driving enemy reinforcements into a siege and constant harassment.

— On Highway 12, west of Hue city, from late March to April 9, the PLAF intercepted the regiments of the puppet 1st Infantry Division in Cu Mong, Dong Tranh and Binh Dien areas, killing or wounding more than 2,000 enemy, gutting nearly 50 military vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, and shooting down many aircraft. The 3rd and 54th Regiments were heavily decimated and 3 squadrons of the 7th Armoured Unit annihilated. Enemy military bases in Binh Dien and Dong Tranh have been surrounded and are facing the danger of being wiped out.

**The High Plateaux:** The PLAF infantry and artillery attacked all the enemy headquarters, key positions, logistic bases, airfields and artillery sites in Northern Kontum province. Besides, they constantly waylaid enemy troops on strategic Highways 14 and 19, killing and capturing over 3,000 enemy including 7 battalions, badly decimating the HQs of one brigade and one regiment, shooting down and damaging many aircraft, destroying 34 cannon, 243 military vehicles and setting aflame many fuel and ammo dumps.

The PLAF in Kontum surrounded and attacked without respite the 2nd Paratroop Brigade in an area from Ngoc Bo Bieng to Chu Co Tong southwest of Tan Canh township. The brigade was forced to regroup on high positions for passive resistance. All the 3 battalions of the brigade were heavily trounced, sustaining over 500 casualties. The brigade's artillery sites and headquarters positioned in the Vo Dinh military sector were hit. The US-puppets had to dispatch the 3rd Paratroop Brigade from Saigon for rescue mission. The military convoy carrying the 9th Battalion of the relief brigade moving along Highway 14 to Kontum fell into an ambush of the PLAF. As a result, 160 enemy troops on board were knocked out, 49 military vehicles and 2 cannon wrecked.

The PLAF on the afternoon of April 14 mounted repeated attacks on and wiped out the 11th Battalion, puppet 3rd Paratroop Brigade in an area south of Peak 1015 (southwest of Tan Canh).

Besides, the PLAF in the High Plateaux kept under attack a series of enemy positions, posts, artillery sites, military sub-sectors, townships and many encampments of the 45th and 47th Main Force Regiments and puppet rangers stationed in Gia Lai and Darlac provinces.

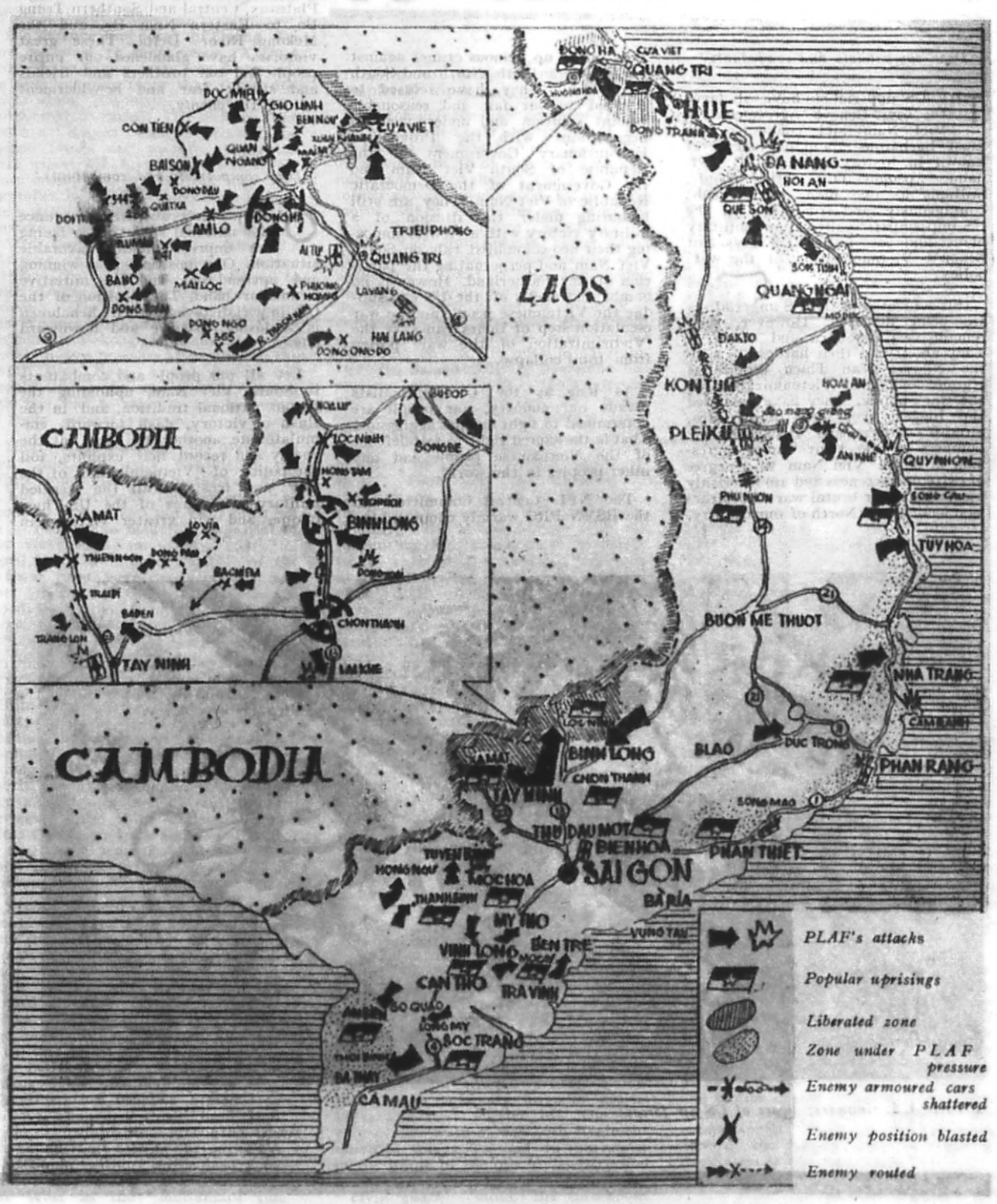
**Eastern Nam Bo:** The PLAF recorded big victories in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces and many other places. They killed and took prisoner over 7,500 enemy. In terms of units, they wiped out 3 tactical groups of the 5th, 18th and 25th Divisions of the puppet main forces; 2 armour squadrons of the 3rd Corps; heavily trounced one paratroop brigade, one infantry tactical group and one other squadron; wrecked and captured 31 cannon and 460 military vehicles including 80 tanks and armoured cars and shot down dozens of aircraft. The liberation armed forces breached the defence perimeters in northwest and north of Saigon, liberated a vast area from Xa Mat (Tay Ninh) and Loc Ninh (Binh Long) to Bu Gia Phuc (Phuoc Long) and seized control of Highway 13 from Loc Ninh to northern Chon Thanh.

The PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo fought many big annihilation battles in Xa Mat, Bau Lung Tung and Thien Ngon (Tay Ninh), Loc Ninh and Technic (Binh Long), neatly wiped out the enemy by regiments, tactical groups, infantry and artillery battalions and armoured squadrons. The PLAF captured the US-puppet communications station on the Ba Den Hill (close to Tay Ninh provincial capital). Bringing into full play their position of offensive, the PLAF surrounded, attacked and wiped out enemy troops in Binh Long provincial capital. They are tightening the siege of Chon Thanh township, repeatedly intercepted enemy relief forces sent to Chon Thanh, putting out of combat many of them and gutting many tanks and armuored cars.

In close co-ordination with the Highways 22 and 13 battlefronts, the PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo launched repeated and powerful attacks on the enemy, razed to the ground a series of enemy posts in Cu Chi and Trang Bang (northern Gia Dinh), Xuan Loc (Bien Hoa), Long Dien and Dat Do (Ba Ria, Long Khanh); sank to vessels on the Saigon river and shelled the Bien Hoa airbase, inflicting heavy losses.

**Central Trung Bo:** The PLAF simultaneously attacked enemy troops in more than 100 bases, positions, townships 3, provincial capitals, one city, 3 airfields and 2 military ports, putting out of action

(Continued page 8)



# COMPATRIOTS AND COMBATANTS!

# LET US MARCH VALIANTLY FORWARD!

## (APPEAL OF SVN NFL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND RSVN PRG)

*The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on April 15 issued an appeal to all the people and combatants in South Viet Nam. The appeal reads in full as follows:*

*Dear compatriots and combatants!*

THE US imperialists have sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and conducted the most barbarous colonialist war ever known in history against the Vietnamese people. Our entire people, millions as one man, have fought courageously and frustrated all the US imperialists' political and military plans and are foiling US President Nixon's 'Vietnamization of the war' policy.

It is evident that the US imperialists are being defeated. However, they remain very stubborn and bellicose. They are trying their hardest to save the Nguyen Van Thieu dictatorial regime and the 'Vietnamization of the war' policy. They have mustered the biggest ever force of warships, aircraft-carriers and B.52 strategic bombers to take their war of aggression in South Viet Nam to a degree of extreme fierceness and are feverishly escalating their brutal war of destruction against the North of our country, thus piling up heinous crimes against our people in both North and South Viet Nam. They have refused to respond to our fair and reasonable 7-point solution and undermined all negotiations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. They are still labouring under the illusion of a military victory with a view to imposing their neo-colonialist rule on South Viet Nam and perpetuating the partition of our Fatherland. However, no bombs and shells of the US can subdue the Vietnamese people and no war escalation step of theirs can save the 'Vietnamization of the war' policy from total collapse.

As long as the US imperialists invade our country, our people are determined to fight against aggression. That is the sacred right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people and any other peoples in the world.

The NFL Central Committee and the RSVN PRG warmly commend the South Vietnamese people and armed forces who have been fighting well and recording splendid exploits from Quang Tri-Thua Thien area, the High Plateaux, Central and Southern Trung Bo to Eastern Nam Bo and the Mekong River Delta. These great victories have gladdened our entire people and our brothers and friends and struck fear and bewilderment among the enemy.

*Dear compatriots and combatants!*

OUR people's anti-US resistance for national salvation is facing an unprecedentedly favorable situation. Our position is a winning and uptrend one and the initiative is in our hand. The position of the US imperialists and their henchmen is a losing, passive and downward one.

Let all our people and combatants in South Viet Nam, upholding the heroic national tradition, and in the flush of victory, dash forward, emulate one another to wipe out the enemy and record new exploits, foil the policy of "Vietnamization of the war" and frustrate all the frenzied military adventures of the US-Thieu clique, and win greater victories in our advance toward total victory.

Let the People's Liberation Armed Forces bring into full play their revolutionary heroism, launch repeated attacks, wipe out large portions of the enemy live force.

*Dear countrymen in the North!*

The US imperialists and their henchmen have deliberately partitioned our country, but they cannot change this truth: Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese are one. The people in the North and the South, millions as one man, are determined to fight and defeat our common enemy. The South Viet Nam armed forces and people are enthusiastically welcoming the marvellous exploits of the armed forces and people in the North who have duly punished all acts of war of escalation taken by the US imperialists, bringing down many of their planes and setting afire many of their warships. Completely loyal to its oath, the South gives this solemn pledge: every criminal act committed by the US against the North will meet with riposte five or ten times harder from the South Viet Nam armed forces and people

*Dear overseas Vietnamese!*

So far, you have always turned your thought to the beloved Fatherland. Now more than ever before, enhance solidarity, promote your patriotic activities and contribute your best to the sacred resistance against the US imperialist aggressors.

The South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation, and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam express profound gratitude to the Cambodian people and Royal Government of National Union, the Lao people and Patriotic Front for their wholehearted support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. Loyal to the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference, the people of South Viet Nam together with their compatriots across the country and standing shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal people of Laos and Cambodia, are determined to defeat the Nixon doctrine in Indochina to achieve independence and freedom for each country of Indochina.

The people and National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam express their sincere and profound gratitude to the governments and peoples of the socialist camp and the peace- and justice-loving countries and the international democratic organizations, the progressive forces and world people and called on our brothers and friends in the world to demand that the Nixon administration put an end to its "Vietnamization of the war" policy and stop its acts of war escalation against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and to increase support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their fight to completely defeat the US aggressors.

The South Vietnamese people call on the American people, for the sake of peace and justice, for the honour and legitimate interests of the United States, to resolutely demand that the Nixon administration end its aggressive war against Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, promptly and totally withdraw all the US troops, stop using its puppet administrations to oppose the Indochinese peoples' right to self-determination, negotiate seriously, positively respond to the PRG's seven-point solution of which the two key points have been elaborated.

The South Vietnamese people call on the officers and soldiers of the US expeditionary army to resolutely urge the Nixon administration to halt its aggression, and quickly bring you home. Strictly implementing the PRG's policy, the People's Liberation Armed Forces welcome and are ready to assist any anti-war American individuals or groups.

*Dear countrymen and combatants:*

OUR esteemed President Ho Chi Minh has said: "I have only one desire, the greatest desire, that is to work so that our country becomes completely independent, our people completely free, and all our compatriots have food, clothes and can afford study."

In his lifetime, President Ho always followed closely every step of the Viet Nam liberation revolution, and his heart and thought was day and night beside the South Viet Nam people and combatants with boundless love.

The entire armed forces and people of South Viet Nam pledge to be worthy of President Ho's love and care, to resolve to fight and completely defeat the US aggressors and build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

**Compatriots and combatants, let us march valiantly forward!**

*PLAF A.A. Gunners, scare of US air forces*

*No US hard shell can resist the PLAF onsets*

# A bitter ordeal

ON the first days of April, when the first rains began, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people also poured a deluge of fire upon the US-Saigon troops on all battlefronts throughout the land.

The defence line north of Quang Tri was smashed to smithereens. A great body of the Saigon army was destroyed. An area covering more than three districts along Highways 9 and 1 were completely liberated. The defence line north of Saigon was breached. The Saigon forces and coercive apparatus were wiped off Loc Ninh district. No more enemy was seen on an area over 190 miles by over 30 miles wide linking the northern parts of three provinces in Eastern Nam Bo. Said *AFP* of April 4: "After the capture of Loc Ninh, the situation in Saigon suddenly became serious: the operations now spread to Binh Duong, a mere 22 miles from Saigon." The enemy defence lines in the Western Highlands, Central Trung Bo and the Mekong Delta have been put under heavy pressure. Everywhere the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are rising up. The US-Saigon rule has had to rake up the last units of their general reserve.

This "biggest attack since Mau Than Tet" has not only bewildered the White House" as *AP* remarked on April 3, but also stunned the Pentagon "so much so that it does not want or is not in a position to make an appraisal of the South Viet Nam events." (*AFP* of April 4). The "hard shells" of the defence lines were easily crushed and the collapse of the Saigon forces too rapid. Not that the US-Saigon troops were taken unawares, for they had anticipated this attack months in advance, but what should happen has happened. As the French paper *Echo* said, "Despite all the anticipation the White House was surprised by the unexpected intensity of the attack which outdid the estimates of the US military command: the defence line north of Quang Tri, for instance, was considered by the Pentagon a comprehensive system marine brigades and a full-strength division — the third division—created after Operation Lam Son 719. But was it really an "armour shield," a "hard shell" immune to any onslaught from without?

Nixon thought that his opponent would avoid the hard spot and attack the soft spot. Should the liberation troops dare to strike at this first-class base, they would "bump against a wall," receive stunning blows and be pinned down on the spot. The Saigon forces, for their part, could withstand the onset until reinforcements came. With this in mind, the US-Saigon military believed the defence line north of Quang Tri to be an impregnable one. The liberation people's armed forces, however, pounded this "hard shell" with a "formidable" strength. Under the thunderbolt hitting at Highway 9 — Khe Sanh, within three days a most powerful system of firebases known in the West as the "McNamara line" crumbled to pieces and its garrison completely wiped out.

But the defence line north of Quang Tri was not the only strong line of the US-Saigon in South Viet Nam. The defence line north of Saigon is a no less important "hard shell." The loss of the former can be made good by eventual moves but if the latter was breeched the US-Saigon major sanctuary in South Viet Nam would come under direct threat with "unforeseeable consequences." That is why the enemy had spent much energy, means and money to turn it into a network of command posts, firebases, strongholds and underground bunkers, with armour support on a favourable terrain. Here the Saigon military command has stationed two divisions — the reinforced 5th and 25th beefed up into model ones — let alone a huge mobile force in Saigon ready to rush to their rescue. The liberation forces, however, did not "avoid the hard spot." Soon after the collapse of the defence line north of Quang Tri, the Saigon forces were "fleeing helter-skelter." Thieu had hardly sent the rangers north of Saigon to the northern front when a "formidable" attack broke out against Loc Ninh, only 80 miles north of Saigon. Within two days, the defence line north of Saigon got a large breech at Binh Long, the strategic roads 13 and 22 were paralysed, a great part of the Saigon troops was put out of action. The US-Saigon hardest and most comprehensive defence line in Eastern Nam Bo was shaken terribly, making the situation in Saigon extremely serious.

THUS, after only one wave of onslaughts during the first days of April, the US-Saigon "hard shells" were shattered but what "bewildered the White House" and made it swallow the bitter pill was not the easy and rapid collapse of the much hoped-for "impregnable hard shell," but the irretrievable and quick collapse of the Saigon troops' morale. These were not defeated "beyond the borders" but right in a familiar terrain despite their great strength, concrete fortifications, ready fire support, reinforcements close at hand, and a battle-array of its choice. Nonetheless, it lost heart and fled in confusion at the first attack of the liberation troops. Within a few days, many regiments, brigades, multi-battalions were written off. The mutiny of the bulk of the 56th Regiment north of Quang Tri and the surrender of the whole of the 9th Multi-Battalion at Loc Ninh, the revolt of many "civil guard" units, the turn-about face of the "people's self defence" corps in Gio Linh, Cam Lo, Loc Ninh constituted another low in the US mercenaries' spirit. It is beyond any doubt that from the Highway 9 — Southern Laos ordeal last spring to the current, the Saigon troops' morale has much downgraded. If in Southern Laos, it was examplified by the image of a Saigon soldier hanging on a US helicopter skid in his rout, in this new disaster it was the image of a ragged Saigon soldier without weapons or a helmet clutching at a bus body. More remarkable still, this time it was a flight in two directions: for dear life and to the other side. The deep significance of this polarization was that although the war was still going on the situation was already clear as to the fate of "Vietnamization". Neither tricks nor war means can extricate Nixon from the bog of defeat.

However, the collapse is not only apparent in the "backbone" of "Vietnamization" but also in the failures of the "pacification" plan, its main strategic measure. One hundred thousand people in Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts, about thirty thousand people in Loc Ninh have risen up as one man, and completely smashed the enemy's coercive apparatus. The wiping off of the "pacification" network in each district was a fresh achievement of the South Viet Nam people, a result of the close coordination, between armed attacks and uprisings between the three prongs: combat, political action and propaganda work among enemy troops, a proof of the great efficiency of the global strength of the South Viet Nam revolutionary war. A fairly accurate analysis of this was made by the *Times* when it said: "The influence of this event is not limited to Quang Tri and threatens Hue only. The mere presence of the South Viet National Front for Liberation in the face of the impotent Saigon army is also a severe blow at the "pacification of the countryside".

The onslaughts of the South Viet Nam liberation people's armed forces in all battlefields of the land in the past days and especially north of Saigon have bared the weakness of the Saigon army. As the Pentagon strategists have assessed, "they open a new chapter in military strategy and tactics of the opponent" and this bitter "ordeal" has supplied the evidence that the "capacity to hold on" of the Saigon army is "but a day-dream of the Americans."

**THANH HONG**

# PLAF BIG VICTORIES ON ALL BATTLEFRONTS

(Continued from page 5)

* *Ammo dump in Lai Khe (eastern Nam Bo) pounded and exploded by PLAF artillery*

* *PLAF fighters occupying Gio Linh military sector (Quang Tri province)*

thousands of them. The corps command, many regiment headquarters and military sud-sectors came under attack by the PLAF.

The Da Nang air base was under violent artillery barrages from the PLAF. Dozens of aircraft of various types were destroyed, many pilots killed and many ammo-dumps blown up. After the annihilation of the 1st Battalion, puppet 5th Regiment and the 48th "civil guard" battalion-sized Unit in Liet Kiem and Chu Gan areas (Quang Nam) and Go Loi area (Binh Dinh) the PLAF stormed the HQs of the 5th Regiment in Tuan Duong, the command of the puppet armour squadron in Ham Xe (Quang Nam) and many military sub-sectors, strongholds and positions of the enemy in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces, overrunning and forcing the enemy to evacuate many posts. The PLAF cut off the enemy communication on Highway 1 (from Da Nang to Hue), Highway 19 (from Quy Nhon to Pleiku), destroying many military vehicles and holding up the enemy's war supplies. The strategic reserve logistic base at Cam Ranh came under the attacks of the Khanh Hoa liberation forces. Hundreds of GIs were knocked out and many bomb and shell storages and other war supplies destroyed.

**Southern Trung Bo:** The PLAF attacked and shelled many enemy bases, positions, airfields, military sub-sectors and military training centers, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

The PLAF kept under constant rocket and mortar fire the Thien Giao, Hoa Da and Hai Ninh military sub-sectors (Binh Thuan), Thanh Son airbase (Ninh Thuan), and the Duc Phong military training center, wiping out many enemy troops, destroying a large quantity of war means, many military installations and barracks.

**In the Mekong Delta:** The PLAF and people in many areas from the Central to Western Nam Bo launched repeated attacks on enemy regular troops, coercive forces and "pacification" units, recording great victories. The liberation forces destroyed many enemy military sub-sectors in Ben Tre, My Tho, Soc Trang, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces including the important military sub-sector in Ngang Dua (Soc Trang) where the enemy sustained more than 250 casualties and lost over 200 guns including 4 artillery pieces destroyed or captured. The Thay Pho military key sector in Can Tho province was heavily attacked; 2 infantry companies and one artillery platoon were put out of combat.

Only in the powerful offensive against the enemy bases in Ba Thay and Nam Can areas, Song Doc district, Ca Mau province, the liberation forces wiped out 4 infantry and artillery battalions, 5 support, sapper and scout companies and the light command of the 33rd Main Force Regiment. In only one night, the PLAF in Ben Tre province levelled in one stroke 9 enemy posts and knocked out one battalion of the puppet 7th Regular Division.

In an engagement with enemy troops of the 15th and 16th Regiments, puppet 9th Division stationed in Xeo Gia area, Go Quao district and Dong Ha area, An Bien district, the People's Liberation Armed Forces in Rach Gia province wiped out to a man 2 artillery battalions and one artillery company and wrecked 3 cannon. The liberation forces and people in Can Tho province badly mauled the 3rd Battalion of the 15th Regiment, puppet 9th Division stationed in Hoa Luu area. 6 regimental commands of the puppet 9th and 21st Regular Divisions positioned in Can Tho, Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces all came under violent assaults of the liberation forces.

In close coordination with military attacks, the people in many provinces and districts from Quang Tri to Ca Mau have simultaneously risen up, stepped up the guerilla warfare, frustrated the enemy's "pacification" program, smashed their coercive machine and seized control of many areas. The newly liberated areas including many hamlets, villages and townships have been consolidating and developing in all fields. The people in these are striving to build political and military forces, intensively consolidating "fighting hamlets" and developing the guerilla warfare.

The heavy setbacks of the enemy on Quang Tri - Thua Thien, the High Plateaux, Binh Long, Tay Ninh and other fronts have rapidly shattered the morale of the enemy forces from regular troops to "civil guards" and "militia." Many regiment-sized and "tactical group" - sized units of the puppet army collectively mutinied and rallied to the liberation forces. Many "civil guard" and "militia" units, revolted and turned their fire on the enemy, "popular defence" in many areas were disbanded, or joined the people in the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

# LOC NINH LIBERATED

MARCHING under the immense cover provided by the green foliage of rubber plantations cleansed by rainfalls, our troops were out to liberate Loc Ninh.

This was a place where in the past years quite a lot of US troopsmen and officers had been buried. General Keith L. Ware, a Division commander hero of the US armed forces in World War II, fell there on Sept. 12, 1968.

Now Loc Ninh was to witness the end of Tactical Group No 9 and Armoured Regiment No 1 of Saigon Division No 5 and other units.

After the withdrawal of US troops, the consolidation of the Loc Ninh sector became a matter of primary concern for the Saigon army since it was a staging area for invading operations directed against Northeastern Cambodia. Loc Ninh was moreover the seat of a cluster of advanced positions of the enemy on Highway 13, 53 miles north of Saigon, an important link in the chain of defence north of that city.

In the Loc Ninh sector were garrisoned Tactical Group No 9 (belonging to Saigon Division No 5) comprising the CP of the Tactical Group, two battalions (No 1 and No 2), Armoured Regiment No 1 comprising the regiment CP and two battalions (No 1 and No 3, Ranger Battalion No 74, Artillery Battalion No 55, 6 companies of civil guard regional forces and one company of police. Youths had been impressed into para-military forces, namely 13 platoons of "rural militia" and 12 units of people's "self-defence." Five pacification teams were also there as forces of control of the people.

The CP of Tactical Group No 9 and Battalion No 1 of this Group camped a few hundreds yards west of Loc Ninh airfield, in a position 1,800 feet long, 1,200 feet wide, surrounded by 8 layers of barbed wire separated by mine fields. Closer to the position was a wall three feet high with low-lying blockhouses and loop-holes. Still more blockhouses, a system of underground shelters and some dozen armoured vehicles and tanks formed a solid defence at the centre of the position.

The local population had been living under the grip of the enemy who combined shelling and firing by the military with looting and killing by thugs and pacification teams. The flame of hatred had been rising all the higher in the whole region of Loc Ninh and Binh Long.

UPON reception of the assignment, the PLAF officers and men unanimously voiced their resolve to wipe out Tactical Group No 9, Armoured Regiment No 1 and all other enemy units garrisoned in Loc Ninh, as their bit in the waves of offensives throughout South Viet Nam.

After hectic preparations, members of Unit of the Binh Long PLAF enthusiastically set off with a firm confidence in their victory. One after another, artillerymen and infantrymen reached their appointed destination after a forced march, bearing in mind the call of the fellow countrymen waiting for liberation. The attack had not begun but the engineer corps already scored an achievement: it had opened the way for other arms to occupy their positions according to plan, and tighten a steel noose around the Loc Ninh sector.

While the enemy in Loc Ninh was living in a state of constant alarm, our artillery started on April 5 violent poundings on selected targets. It did not take it much time to blast away the block of houses forming the enemy tactical group CP, burn down the fuel and ammo depots, and cripple adverse artillery emplacements. Airplanes hurriedly sent to their rescue were immediately fired at by AA units of the PLAF. 5 of them were downed. The people of 16 neighbouring villages seized the opportunity to rise up, hunt for and wipe out cruel thugs and regain control over the areas.

Stricken with panic by the overwhelming attack and uprising of the PLAF and people, at 13 hours on April 6, the Armoured Regiment No 1, Battalion No 2 (belonging to Tactical Group No 9) and Ranger Battalion No 74 (in Hoa Lu base area) took to flight southward, but fell into an ambush laid by liberation forces. Simultaneous assaults were launched by our fighters who cut enemy formations to pieces. An utter confusion ensued, the ranks of the Saigon units were all broken, while dozens of their armoured vehicles were set ablaze. Our fighters called upon the enemy to surrender, which was responded to by many drivers who handed over their armoured vehicles, tanks and ordnance pieces as well. Altogether nearly 100 vehicles and tanks were captured by Unit M. of the PLAF along with tons of ammunition. A great number of war prisoners after being explained the 10-point policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, volunteered to talk their mates into surrender. Fired by this initial success, officers and men entrusted with the task of taking the Loc Ninh position impatiently waited for their turn.

AT 3 hours 10 minutes on April 7, from the command came the go order. Our artillery roared and poured shells on the enemy position. Underground shelters of the defenders were dug up, big columns of smoke and fire covered the whole area. Hardly had our artillery stopped rumbling when the charging order was issued, whereupon our fighters dashed forward like a hurricane toward the centre of the position and reduced to silence the enemy remaining fire-points. Fire columns went up, detonations of grenades mixed with machinegun cracking made a deafening noise. Our fighters staged a very daring and speedy action, eliminating the most refractory elements among the enemy, calling on others to surrender and capturing prisoners. Two M.113 and two lorries of the Saigon army with a dozen soldiers onboard tried to escape through the fire, but were immediately stopped by our artillerymen.

Now realizing the futility of any opposition to this PLAF crushing onslaught the survivors hoisted a white flag. Among the war prisoners were the commander of Tactical Group No 9 and his Yankee adviser. It was 5 hours 45 minutes. We had by then been masters of the enemy CP and of the whole sector of Loc Ninh.

MINGLED with the salvoes of our attacking units in the enemy position, resounded the calls through megaphones of the insurgent local population. Many "rural militia" and "people's self-defence" units crossed over to the people's side in full kits. The whole district of Loc Ninh with its 30,000 population was entirely liberated. The people jubilantly welcomed the Liberation fighters and joined them in the hunt for fleeing enemy troops.

In an ebullient atmosphere, the Loc Ninh people are now striving hard to serve combat, build up their forces, consolidate their revolutionary power, organize their own defence and stand ready at the side of the PLAF to beat of all counter-attacks of the enemy and preserve the newly-liberated area.

VU HUU SU

*The PLAF in eastern Nam Bo in hot pursuit of Saigon remnant troops*

# EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD BE A STAUNCH FIGHTER!

## (VNWP Central Committee and DRVN Government Appeal)

*On April 16, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued the following appeal:*

*Compatriots and combatants throughout the country!*

THE US imperialists are very gravely escalating their war of aggression in our country. They are sending in more planes and warships and stepping up bombings and shellings to kill our people in both the North and the South.

From 2:15 a.m. today, April 16, 1972, many flights of US war planes including B.52s many times indiscriminately bombed and strafed heavily populated areas in Haiphong and Hanoi.

These savage acts, coupled with the stubborn attitude of sabotaging the Paris Conference, show that the bellicose Nixon clique are pursuing their war policy in an attempt to materialize their scheme of aggression against the southern part of our country. They want to save the "Vietnamization of the war" policy from the danger of total failure. They want to secure a position of strength while they are suffering heavy setbacks and hard pressed on the battlefield, in a bid to compel us to "negotiate" on their terms and to materialize US - type neo-colonialism in the south of our country. Obviously, the bellicose Nixon clique are making a large-scale escalation of the war and, at the same time using crafty political and diplomatic ploys to cover up their wicked design of aggression.

But every step of war escalation taken by the US aggressors has resulted in a still heavier setback for them. Our armed forces and people throughout the country hate them more bitterly and are valiantly marching forward with a determination to fight and win, fearing neither hardships nor sacrifices.

Years ago, with more than half a million US soldiers and more than one million Saigon puppet troops and troops of satellite countries, the US aggressors were defeated in the South. Now that the balance of force has changed to the disadvantage of the US and its stooges, the US policy of "Vietnamization" of the war will certainly go bankrupt.

By using US air and naval forces to attack North Viet Nam, the US aggressors are only inviting upon themselves yet heavier failures.

Our people bear in mind this teaching from beloved President Ho Chi Minh's:

**"Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities and certain enterprises may be destroyed but the Vietnamese people will not be intimidated!**

**"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. When the day of victory comes, our people will rebuild our country and endow it with bigger and more beautiful construction."**

Our countrymen and liberation fighters in the South are striking hard, winning big victories and dashing forward to totally defeat the US aggressors' policy of "Vietnamization" of the war. Our army and people in the North are duly punishing the acts of war of the US air and naval forces which encroach upon the independence, sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, always ready to fight and fight well, striving to boost up production, strengthening the North in all respects, and fulfilling their noble task toward the heroic South.

Let our entire Party, army and people, united millions as one, heighten their revolutionary heroism, resolutely struggle for the independence and freedom of the Homeland, for the cause of liberating the South, defending the socialist North, and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country! Our people, together with the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia, are resolved to drive the US imperialists out of Indochina peninsula!

Let our people's armed forces dash forward valiantly and fight unremittingly to kill the enemy and save the country!

Every citizen should be a staunch fighter against US aggression, for national salvation.

Every factory, building site, state farm, co-operative public organ, school and street should be a trench ready to fight to shatter all military adventures of the US aggressors and their henchmen?

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam sincerely thank the Communist and Workers' Parties, the Governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries, of peace- and justice-loving countries, and all democratic and peace organizations in the world for the active support they are giving to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

In face of the new situation, we firmly believe that our brothers and friends in the world will give us even more active support, strongly condemn in time the dangerous schemes and acts of war of the US imperialists in Viet Nam.

We call on the American people to resolutely stop all acts of war escalation of the war-seeking Nixon clique, for the sake of peace, justice and honour of the United States.

*Compatriots and combatants throughout the country!*

Our people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, is a just cause. The tradition of valiant struggle against aggression and the strength of unity of our people are invincible. Countrymen and combatants, for the Fatherland, for the nation, for peace and justice, march forward valiantly!

**We will certainly be victorious!**

**The US aggressors will certainly be defeated!**

**Long live peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam.**

# Blood debts must be repaid with blood

*IN an attempt to black out their setbacks in Tri-Thien-Hue, the High Plateaux, Binh Long, Tay Ninh and other places in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, the US imperialists have gone further in their criminal military adventure against the DRVN.*

*Hundreds of US aircraft including many B.52 strategic bombers and several US warships rained thousands of tons of bombs and shells on the populated areas of Quang Binh, Vinh Linh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa. On April 16, US aircraft of many kinds savagely attacked Haiphong port city and Hanoi capital city. They destroyed many people's houses, paddy fields and hospitals and killed many people.*

*The North Vietnamese put up a stiff resistance. Between April 1 and 16, the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam knocked down nearly 40 US aircraft including 5 B.52s. On April 6 alone, Quang Binh and Vinh Linh downed 10 enemy planes, and on April 16, Haiphong and Hanoi capital brought down 15 US aircraft including a B.52 in Haiphong. In strict execution of the Viet Nam People's Army High Command's order, people throughout North Viet Nam have been enhancing their zeal and resolve to foil all US stubborn attacks under whatever forms, at any time, on whatever scale and with whatever strength.*

*The dramatic feats of the North Viet Nam Army and people, especially in Vinh Linh, Quang Binh, Haiphong and Hanoi constitute a tremendous encouragement for the South Viet Nam army and people. They will further stimulate their southern fellow fighters and countrymen in these historic days, in the sacred mission entrusted to by the whole nation to defeat the US imperialists' "Vietnamization." On the Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Tay Nguyen, Binh Long, Tay Ninh battlefields... the fighters and people will follow up their gains to rush forward and impetuously step up their offensives and uprisings in all parts, with the iron-like determination "to fight till the Yanks quit, the puppets topple," to liberate South Viet Nam, defend the North and reunify the country.*

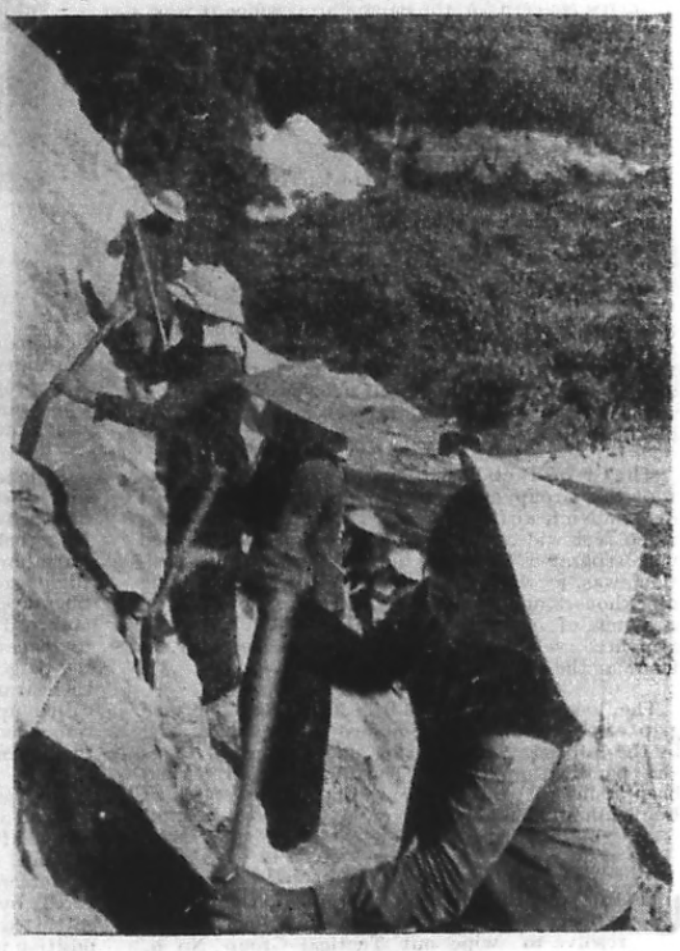
*North and South Viet Nam are one country. The North and South Vietnamese are people of the same nation, of the same family. The VNPA and PLAF are blood brothers. Let Nixon and his followers remember that by committing crimes against the North Vietnamese army and people, they have exasperated the burning hatred of the army and people in Viet Nam as a whole. They have but further stiffened the South Vietnamese army and people's determination to rush forward to completely foil all their new military adventurous schemes and acts.*

*For one strike of theirs on North Viet Nam, South Viet Nam will deliver 10 or 100 at them. Realities on the Tri-Thien-Hue, Binh Long, Tay Ninh, High Plateaux battlefields and other places of South Viet Nam have made this fact plain.*

*With a high resolve and profound sympathy, the people and army in both North and South Viet Nam have been shattering Nixon's wild dream of aggression with the "limited war." Now the people's determination in both zones is higher than ever before, and their posture and their posture and strength more powerful.*

*The US aggressors' adventurous military acts will surely meet with humiliating failure.*

**Our great rear**



*Opening the way to the front*

*On the occasion of the 2nd Anniversary of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference*

# MILITANT SOLIDARITY: AN INVINCIBLE FORCE

ON April 25, two years ago, an event of historical significance occurred on the Indochinese peninsula: the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference affirmed the militant solidarity of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples and their resolve to resist American aggression and defend their independence and freedom.

"The American imperialists are neo-fascists, an international gendarme, the most cruel and dangerous enemy of the Indochinese peoples and mankind...", the declaration assessed. "The urgent problem at present is to resolutely check and foil all manœuvres and acts of the American warmongers."

Starting from the principle that the liberation and defence of a country is the business of its own people, the four delegations of the three countries pledged to fight with determination and wholeheartedly support one another in their current struggle as well as in their long-range co-operation in the building of their respective countries according to their own way. This co-operation is to be carried out on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the basic principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and those of 1962 on Laos. The Summit Conference regarded that militant solidarity and mutual assistance as a decisive factor for the success of the resistances of the three peoples.

The Joint Declaration pointed out that "the situation is more favourable than ever to the patriotic fight against American aggression of the three Indochinese peoples" and spelt out the confidence that the latter "will bring into full play their offensive posture, persevere in, and push up, their struggle in every field, and will surely achieve total victory."

Over the past two years, inspired by the Joint Declaration and by their respective national salvation programs, the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos have dealt telling blows at the US invaders and pushed their common fight a step farther ahead.

Every US machiavellian plot to use the Indochinese against Indochinese and Asians against Asians under the Nixon doctrine, has been frustrated. Washington's and Saigon's efforts to prevent Vietnamization from going bankrupt have been labour lost. From Operations **Prometheus** and **Toan Thang** in 1970 to **Dewey Canyon** and **Lam Son 719** campaigns in 1971, the Saigon army have incurred heavy losses. Pacification has been significantly rolled back.

In Cambodia, Operation **Chenla II** like the ones on Route 4 and in other areas, launched by the shaky quisling forces, has ended in a rout. The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh faction has been torn by internal strifes. The "Khmer Republic" set up by the Americans as an instrument of US neo-colonialism, has been waiting like its self-styled president under the fire of the liberation forces. The zone controlled by the National United Front, and expanding to eight-tenths of the country's territory with a 5 million population, has been consolidated with every passing day. The extraordinary advance of the Cambodia revolution has become a pride of all the three peoples of Indochina.

In Laos, with the liberation of Saravane, Boloven, the Plain of Jars, Muong Sui and Samthong-Long Cheng, Vang Pao's bandits armed and fostered by the CIA into shock troops against the patriotic forces have been depleted beyond recovery. Thai mercenaries introduced at Washington's instigation to the rescue of the Vientiane clique have been badly mauled, and their morale has been visibly sinking.

THE tremendous successes scored by the Indochinese peoples since the Summit Conference have weakened their enemy and driven them into a quandary. In these days of April, the onslaughts of the liberation forces from Quang Tri down to the plains of Nam Bo, from Long Cheng to Preyveng and Kompong Trach, just as the downing of B.52s and setting on fire of US warships off the North Viet Nam coast, have been pushing the US imperialists, their Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane lackeys, and their Vietnamization, Khmerization and Laotianization toward total fiasco.

Clearly, the strength of the militant solidarity of the Indochinese peoples has been, and still is, the decisive factor of all the successes of their resistance against the Nixon doctrine. Brought into full play, it will certainly lead to their final triumph.

**DINH BA**

*The Lao combattants occupying a position of the US fostered Vang Pao bandits*

## Laos:

# 2,400 enemy wiped out in March 1972

IN March, the Lao people and PLAF killed, wounded or captured 2,400 enemy most of them Thai mercenaries. They heavily decimated 8 adverse battalions 6 of which being Thai, downed or wrecked on the ground 28 planes and shattered to pieces tens of others, captured or destroyed numerous weapons including nearly 50 cannons and mortars blasted 9 military vehicles, and made a big haul of military equipment.

After thwarting a 7-regiment size operation South of the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang in which hundreds of adversary troops were wiped out, the Lao PLAF drove away on March 11 four Thai battalions and one Vang Pao battalion from Sam Thong base, killing or wounding over 750 enemy, and downing 10 aircraft.

The remnant troops regrouped in Phoumok were under fierce artillery fire and suffered some 200 killed and 3 planes brought down.

The Lao PLAF artillery kept pounding Long Cheng, the major lair of chief bandit Vang Pao. Due to the PLAF violent onslaughts, 1,000 Vang Pao bandits stationed in Long Cheng mutinied.

In the sector of Highway 9 and on the Boloven Highlands, the enemy defence line was breached and many positions seized, including the Lao Ngam cross-road strategic base.

Numerous enemy sweeps around Keng Nhao. Dong Hen were intercepted and suffered 900 dead.

## Cambodia: CNLPAF Advances

COMMEMORATING the 2nd founding anniversary of the National United Front of Kampuchea (NUFK) and the Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces (CNLPAF) (March 23, 1970-1972), the CNLPAF stepped up their activities in March, against enemy positions and clearing operations.

In their onsets on the night of March 20 against enemy posts in and around Phnom Penh, the Cambodian patriotic forces put out of action over 600 Lon Nol troops, destroyed the radio broadcasting station, 20 military vehicles and many airplanes, heavily damaged the seat of the "Defence Ministry," the Special Military Zone HQ and Phnom Penh Municipal Police, and blew up 6 bridges. The following days they destroyed the Chruy Changvar main bridge and sank or damaged many vessels.

On the Siem Reap front, harassed by the CNLPAF, Operation "Angkor Chey" marked time. The enemy took in January and February nearly 1,500 casualties and was engaged in violent fighting in March west of Siem Reap. Their rescue parties sent from Battambang lost nearly 500 men in CNLPAF ambushes, and Operation Angkor Chey ended in a total fiasco.

The Cambodian patriotic forces have besieged adverse positions around Kompong Thom since February 21, 1972, flattened 9 posts and exacted a toll of nearly 2,000 men.

In the provinces of Prey Veng, Kompong Cham, Svey Rieng, they hammered at 40 positions on March 19, 20 and 21, knocked out over one thousand enemy troops, wrecked 2 ammunition dumps and liberated 7 villages. The road linking Neak Luong to Prey Veng is now under the patriots' control; Prey Veng town is beleaguered.

In Kampot province (Southern Cambodia), from March 22 to 29, the liberation armed forces fought many battles to the Saigon invaders, inflicting on them nearly 200 casualties and wiping out 3 armoured squadrons.

According to Khmer Information Agency (*AKI*), the patriotic forces at Kompong Cham and Prey Veng launched a big offensive against Lon Nol and Saigon troops. From March 18 to 30, they put out of action nearly 3,000 enemy including hundreds of Saigon soldiers, blew up many enemy positions, CPs and ammo depots and liberated large areas.

Harassing the enemy at Kampot, Kompong Chnang and Kompong Seila in February and March the guerillas and regional forces on their part, killed over 200 enemy soldiers including a captain, a lieutenant, two second lieutenants, seized a quantity of weapons and destroyed 5 military vehicles including 4 tanks.

In the early morning of April 20, the Cambodian liberation fighters assaulted one enemy company defending a post 6 km east of the provincial capital, wiping out over 100 enemy, destroying 10 pillboxes and barracks and seizing many weapons. Almost all those that fled to the South were made prisoner, according to *AKI*.

The next morning, the Cambodian liberation fighters violently attacked another outpost 4 kms east of Svay Rieng town, knocking out more than 90 enemy troops and seizing all their weapons. An enemy reinforcement platoon was intercepted and put out of combat. In coordination with the regular army, the regional forces attacked and forced the enemy to evacuate from 9 positions in the south and north of Highway One, liberating a vast area encompassing 100 square kilometres.

In Prey Veng province, another *AKI* report said, the Cambodian liberation armed forces violently assaulted the Phnom Penh puppet Brigade garrisoning in Kompong Trabek township, inflicting heavy losses. On the morning of April 20 the enemy had to flee away, leaving behind over 200 corpses. The liberation fighters in their pursuit of the enemy knocked down many of them, captured the Brigade commander and 150 officers and soldiers and seized hundreds of firearms of various kinds including two 105mm cannon.

# The whole world condemns Nixon

NIXON'S sabotage of the Paris Conference and escalation of the air war in Viet Nam has touched off world-wide protest.

The general consensus regards Nixon's moves as "serious acts of sabotage of the search for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue" (*Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister*), and "brazen and insolent challenges to the Vietnamese people, the American people and peace and justice lovers round the world" (*Foreign Ministry — Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia*), who "are strongly against the US imperialists' aggression in Indochina" (*Foreign Ministry, DPRK*). Such manoeuvres were part of the US administration's ploys for domestic consumption" (*Polish Deputy Foreign Minister*), and aimed at "eluding the fundamental problems in the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue and deceiving public opinion" (*GDR Deputy Foreign Minister*).

"It is clear that Mr Nixon has thus far used the Paris Conference only to serve the US Vietnamization of the war policy," said the *Danish Committee for Support of Viet Nam*. "The justifications Mr Nixon invoked," it added, "to torpedo the Paris Conference on Viet Nam are sheer fabrications. While talking about 'peace', 'serious negotiation', etc., he doubled the number of US B.52s in Guam and Thailand and deployed more aircraft-carriers to the Tonkin Gulf and hundreds of fresh tactical aircraft to South Viet Nam to step up the US air war against the people of the Indochinese countries on an unprecedented scale."

"At present, the US is renewing its massive bombing campaign in both South and North Viet Nam. This is a proof that Nixon's Vietnamization policy only intensifies the war and brings more suffering to the Indochinese people" (*United FNL Group of Sweden*). "It is an extremely serious act of war against the Vietnamese people" (*Swedish Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam*). "It is absolutely indefensible. It is not in line with the declared American intention to withdraw its forces from Viet Nam" (*Indian Foreign Minister*).

"This new act of aggression coming on top of US decision to break off the talks in Paris, completely exposes Nixon's double-talk about peace and his protestation that he is seeking an end to the war through negotiations", "fully bares the US imperialists as the obstinate enemy of the peoples of the Indochinese countries," and "the barbarous and bellicose nature of US imperialism, the common enemy of all mankind."

Nixon has come under fire even at home. The US press has asserted that "the US side has all along used a dilatory tactics at Paris" (*Christian Science Monitor*), that ostensibly Nixon's move has been taken with a sabotage intent (*Washington Post* — March 26), and that through the sabotage of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the Nixon administration "has come to take Vietnamization and not negotiations as a measure." Many US congressmen including E. Kennedy, M. Mansfield, W. Fulbright, McGovern, H. Humphrey and B. Abzug have protested Nixon's increased air war over Indochina and urged US return to the Paris talks so as to bring peace to Viet Nam. "This is the only practical possibility for the US to restore peace in Southeast Asia" (E. Kennedy).

Apart from the views quoted above, resolutions adopted at mass rallies and demonstrations in the Soviet Union, Scandinavia, West Germany, the US and India, the statements of the French, Italian, Austrian, Japanese and other communist parties, of the peace movements, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organizations, and support or solidarity committees of various countries, messages from the World Peace Council and the Women's International Democratic Federation, and the press of the Soviet Union, China, Eastern Europe, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Tanzania, Congo (B), Cuba, Chile, India and Burma have served Nixon with this unequivocal warning:

"The Nixon Administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from its sabotage and warlike moves."

*In the USA*

# Spring offensive continues...

ACCORDING to Western sources, the anti-Viet Nam war movement of the American people continues to gain momentum. Nixon's sabotage of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and intensified air war in both South and North Viet Nam have triggered widespread protest among Americans, including political circles.

Mass meetings and demonstrations have broken out in quick succession in the American capital and many other major cities like New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, Milwaukee... In Washington, on April 15, nearly one thousand people held a protest rally in front of the White House then went to La Fayette Park facing the presidential residence, shouting, "Stop the war! Stop the bombing!" Many US Senators joined in the demonstration or sent messages of solidarity. Speaking at the meeting, Senator Mike Gravel urged Nixon to set a definite date for the complete withdrawal of American troops from Viet Nam. L. Livingston, a union leader freshly back from a visit to Viet Nam, pointed out that the Vietnamese people wanted a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue but were "resolved to fight to the end to regain freedom for their country." He urged the United States to end immediately the aggression in Viet Nam. Congresswoman B. Abzug stressed that by intensifying the bombing in Indochina, the US is only expanding the "Americanization" of the war. She said that while numerous Americans are suffering from under-nourishment and poverty, national resources are being used to keep in power the Nguyen Van Thieu dictatorship.

In New York, meetings took place through April 12. From early morning the marchers put up banners protesting against the International Telephone and Telegraph producing electronic equipment for the US war in Viet Nam. The demonstrators, among them members of the Women Strike for Peace and the Committee of Action for Peace in Viet Nam carried banners saying "Stop the savage bombings now!" "Stop the war!" Mrs Scranton, a housewive in Brooklyn said: "The only thing we want and for which we come here is to urge the government to end the acts of massacre against the Vietnamese people. In my view, the United States has no right to interfere in the affairs of the Vietnamese people. Instead of ending this war and conducting negotiations with the representatives of Viet Nam, the government has ordered new bombings (in Viet Nam). This is a new crime not only against the Vietnamese but also against all peace-loving people." Earlier, on April 7, a group of young Americans has staged a march and painted many slogans in red on the wall of this firm's seat and distributed leaflets flaying it for having supplied electronic equipment to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

On the evening of April 12, nearly 2,000 New Yorkers again held a rally at Times Square against the air war escalation of the United States in Viet Nam. While marching, they chanted anti-war slogans and made for the Americana Hotel where Vice-President Spiro Agnew was speaking.

The Nixon administration ordered police to crack down on the demonstrators, making hundreds of arrests in various places.

Along with the anti-war activities of the American people many anti-war organizations like the National Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Coalition of Young Workers for Freedom and the Businessmen for Peace in Viet Nam, held a press conference and issued a declaration criticizing the Nixon administration and calling on the American people to step up their action for an immediate end to the war of aggression in Indochina. Banting, one of the leading members of the Businessmen for Peace in Viet Nam said: "The US government has thrown many important air and naval units against a country which has never had the intention to invade our country. The Americans are sowing death in Viet Nam, and engaged in mass slaughters. We urge an end to these acts."

Among the American ruling circles, many Senators and representatives have sent letters and messages to Nixon urging him to explain publicly to the American people US military escalation in Viet Nam and to end the bombings in Viet Nam. The letter of 62 US Congressmen (17 senators and 45 House members) said the United States is now assembling in Southeast Asia one of the largest air armadas in military history. The use of such a force would certainly not only add to the destruction our bombing has already brought to the people and land of Indochina, but also to the number of American casualties and prisoners of war.

The message of five other American Congressmen said that the bombing escalation of the US in Viet Nam did not conform to the desire of the American people who are urging the government to end immediately all the bombings and withdraw immediately all US troops from Indochina.

Nixon's frantic order to the US air force to strike Haiphong and Hanoi was immediately pilloried by several senators as a senseless, reckless and serious war escalation, a wanton reaction to the utter failure of the President's Vietnamization policy (Edward Kennedy), a contempt of justice, a dangerous game (Mc Govern). It is a shocking confession of the failure of the Vietnamization policy, a failure to keep promises he (Nixon) made in 1968 (to stop definitively all bombardments against North Viet Nam. It means increased American involvement, increased American deaths and increased American prisoners. (Edmund S. Muskie).

*Anti-war demonstration in an aero-naval base in San Francisco.*

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION